

USSN. 10/661,630
Examiner: Michalsky, Gerald A
Group A.U.: 3753

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

With regard to item 1 of the Office Action, the drawings have been amended in order to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Additional Figures 5 and 6 show the features specified in respective claims 7 and 10.

Figure 5 finds support on specification page 4, lines 26-28 of the application as originally filed in which *the spherical body 13 is substituted by a water mass and the U-shaped duct is made of transparent material.*

Similarly, Figure 6 finds support on specification page 5, lines 8 to 10 which describes an embodiment having *the branch 12 of the U-shaped duct provided with a conical shape.*

Therefore, no new matter have been entered.

New figures 5 and 6 are hereby enclosed.

These being the only amendments to the figures, it is believed that a marked-up copy of the drawings is not necessary in the case.

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REMARKS

The Examiner's comments and grounds of rejection raised in the Office Action dated August 12, 2004 have been carefully considered by the Applicant. Particularly, to further the prosecution of the present application, amendments have been carried out with regard to the drawings and the original set of claims. The following remarks are submitted.

Status of the Claims

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-10 were pending and rejected in this application. In order to overcome the Examiner's objections, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 and deleted claim 2, taking care not to introduce new matter while amending the original claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Akiyama (US 4,533,353) in view of Haidek et al (US 3,360,007).

In prior art document US. No. 4,533,353 a dry type discharge liquid extraction apparatus is shown having a fluid collection chamber, a coupling for introducing a vacuum into the fluid collection chamber, and a pressure adjusting valve which regulates the flow of air from the collection chamber to the coupling by means of a spring bias.

In prior art document US. No. 3,360,007 a gas pressure and vacuum pull control valve is shown which adjusts the gas pressure by means of a permanent magnet.

The prior art documents, even if taken in combination, fail to disclose a device for adjusting the degree of vacuum in an apparatus for collecting substances by suction, which comprises a chamber; a valve with a body that is provided with a sealing surface and with a first air flow port connected to atmosphere at one end and to the chamber at the other end; a vacuum source, wherein the chamber is connected to the vacuum source and to the collection apparatus; a permanent magnet; supporting means associated with the valve body in an adjustable position so as to

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allow the arrangement of the magnet at different distances with respect to the sealing surface; and a flow control element provided so as to be attracted into a closed position in abutment against the sealing surface by action of the magnet, wherein the supporting means comprises a ring that is associated with the valve body by way of a thread thereof, the ring comprising ribs forming air passage channels connected to a central hub for accommodating the magnet.

Further, the prior art documents, even if taken in combination, fail to disclose a device for adjusting the degree of vacuum in an apparatus for collecting substances by suction, which comprises a chamber; a valve with a body that is provided with a sealing surface and with a first air flow port connected to atmosphere at one end and to the chamber at the other end; a vacuum source, wherein the chamber is connected to the vacuum source and to the collection apparatus; a permanent magnet; supporting means associated with the valve body in an adjustable position so as to allow the arrangement of the magnet at different distances with respect to the sealing surface; a flow control element provided so as to be attracted into a closed position in abutment against the sealing surface by action of the magnet; and indication means for indicating the flow of air through the valve for connection to the atmosphere.

New independent claim 1 is a combination of original claims 1 and 2. Further, new independent claim 5 is a combination of original claims 1 and 5. No new subject matter has therefore been introduced in respect of the originally filed disclosure.

Applicant strongly believes that the new claims better reflect the inventive concept underlying the present invention, consisting in the device for adjusting the degree of vacuum comprising means which allow the adjustment of the pressure or vacuum inside the collection apparatus to a desired value with extremely simple maneuvers.

It is noted that the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest the invention as now claimed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is now in order for allowance, and a notice to

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this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: New Figures 5 and 6.